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ABSTRACT

This annotated directory of resources is designed to assist in locating key organizations, agencies, and projects that are involved in the delivery of assistive technology services at the national, state, and local levels. Resources described include three federal agencies, nine national associations, five rehabilitation engineering centers, four state assistive technology centers, and two computer vendors. The directory provides a general overview of each agency or organization and its services, as well as information about current technology-related activities. Also included are a description of the national technical assistance project, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, and descriptions of the nine recipients of the state technology-related assistance grants (Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Utah). (JDD)

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Resource Directory

A Product of the Center for Special Education Technology

Operated by
The Council for Exceptional Children

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Center for Special Education Technology
The Council for Exceptional Children
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Center for Special Education Technology

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PURPOSE

The Center for Special Education Technology at the Council for Exceptional Children is a national information center funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The Center's broad goals are to influence the quality, availability, and use of technology in special education through information. To that end the Center provides a range of information services and activities for educators, developers, and publishers.

A major component of the Center's service is its in-depth focus on identified themes in the special education technology field. Theme activities address expressed information gaps by identifying existing knowledge and making sure that knowledge gets translated and disseminated to interested audiences.

The Center's first theme for 1989-1990 is assistive technology. This theme was chosen because of the increased interest within the special education community which is expected to continue as a result of the new federal legislation calling for technology-related services for individuals with disabilities. The Center's efforts focus on three aspects of assistive technology: products, service delivery, and integration of assistive technology within the education/learning environment.

A major barrier to service delivery is the lack of information and awareness of assistive technology resources. In response to this information need, the Center has compiled an annotated directory of resources to assist in locating key organizations, agencies, and projects at the national, state, and local level that are involved in the delivery of assistive technology services. It is our intent to foster wider awareness and increased communication among resources and within the field at large.

The directory provides a general overview of each agency and its services, as well as information about current technology-related activities. Also included are the nine recipients of the state technology-related assistance grants and the national technical assistance project funded by NIDRR under the Technology-Related Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities Act, P.L.100-407.

Other currently available products developed under the assistive technology theme are:

Directory of Assistive Technology Data Sources

The Marketplace: Special Edition: P.L. 100-407

Tools for a Lifetime

Proceedings of State Forum: Delivery of Technology-Related Assistance

Future products will include:

Assistive Technology Curriculum Outline

Assistive Technology: The Role of the Team

Technology User in the Classroom Series

These products are available free of charge from the Center.

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Name of Agency:	**The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research**
Address:	U.S. Department of Education Mail Stop 2305 Washington, D.C. 20202
Telephone:	202-732-1141

Description of Agency

The National Institute of Handicapped Research was created in 1978 by P.L. 95-602, the *Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services and Developmental Disabilities Amendments* to the 1973 *Rehabilitation Act* and modified by subsequent amendments. The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1986 changed the Institute's name to The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.

NIDRR provides leadership and support for a national and international program of comprehensive and coordinated research on the rehabilitation of disabled individuals. The Institute's mission also includes the dissemination of information about the developments in rehabilitation procedures, methods, and devices that can improve the lives of people of all ages with physical and mental handicaps, especially those individuals who are severely disabled. Perhaps one of the most outstanding aspects of the research being supported by NIDRR is that it helps to integrate persons with disabilities into independent and semi-independent community life.

Current Activities

NIDRR's programs and activities include:

- Rehabilitation Research and Demonstration Projects
- Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers
- Rehabilitation Engineering Centers
- The International Research Program
- Coordination and Cooperation
- Research Utilization
- Fellowships and Other Programs
- Areas of Special Interest

NIDRR's work in the rehabilitation technology field is not just limited to its Rehabilitation Engineering Centers. NIDRR supports technological development in its Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers program and fosters technology-related dissemination and utilization efforts through its Rehabilitation Information Exchange projects and The S.M.A.R.T. Exchange.

The West Virginia Research and Training Center is involved in a wide range of rehabilitation activities. Major emphasis is being placed on the application of information technology by all

phases of rehabilitation by consumers. One activity that the center is involved in presently is the ROOT (Rehabilitation Office of Tomorrow) project in which a "professional workstation" is being developed.

The Region IX Rehabilitation Information Exchange funded by NIDRR in 1983, will provide rehabilitation staff in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and the Pacific Basin with information about exemplary programs and promising practices they might wish to adopt when developing school-to-work transition programs or locating appropriate computer technology applications. RIE has published the *Rehabilitation Technology Resource Guide* (1989) which is a directory of 31 rehabilitation technology information centers nationwide.

The four RECs with responsibility for technology transfer are the Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center in California, the Electronic Industries Foundation in Washington, D.C., the South Carolina Rehabilitation Engineering Center, and the Center for Technology Resources in Connecticut. (See Rehabilitation Engineering Centers listed in this directory.)

The S.M.A.R.T. Exchange, which is funded jointly by NIDRR and the United Cerebral Palsy Association, seeks to improve the delivery of assistive technology services in the southeastern region by identifying exemplary technology-related service delivery programs, disseminating information about them through existing organizations and publications, and facilitating information exchange among other organizations interested in assistive technology.

NIDRR is also the administering agency for the new Technology-Related Assistance to Persons with Disabilities Act. For FY89, nine state grants were awarded under this new legislation and one national technical assistance contract was awarded to RESNA. (See section on Technology-Related Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act Awards.)

Name of Agency:	**Office of Special Education Programs**
Address:	Division of Innovation and Development 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W. Switzer Building, MS2724 Washington, DC 20202
Telephone:	202-732-1123

Description of Agency

The Division of Innovation and Development (DID) in the Office of Special Education Programs administers many grants and contracts that focus on applications of technology in special education. DID's Research and Development Projects Branch (RDPB) manages one program in particular that concentrates on technology applications: *Technology, Educational Media, and Materials (EHA, Part G: CFDA No. 84.180).*

The ultimate goal of the program is to increase the use of high quality and relevant instructional media, materials, and technology to effectively meet the educational needs of children and youth who are handicapped. In order to achieve this goal, three intermediate objectives have been adopted:

- To enhance the availability of appropriate technology in special education.
- To improve the quality of technology-based educational materials and programs.
- To encourage the appropriate use of media, materials, and technology in special education.

Additional technology projects conducted by DID have been funded under other programs, including *Innovation and Development (CFDA No. 84.023) and Early Childhood (CFDA No. 84.024).*

Current Activities

Under the Technology, Educational, Media, and Materials program, DID funds projects in three broad areas including research and development, improved educational practices, and information transfer in technology-related fields. Ongoing projects in these three areas address:

- Instructional Technology Software
- Compensatory Technology Applications
- Integration of Technology for Instruction
- Innovative Cooperative Models to Expand Technology Use
- Administrative and Management Applications in Special Education
- Center for Special Education Technology

The two program priorities for FY1990 are:

Using Technology to Improve Assessment of Children with Handicaps. This new priority, first funded in FY1989, is designed to support innovative technologies to advance assessment theory and practice for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with handicaps. Projects are to develop and evaluate technology applications which extend beyond the current paper and pencil tests used to measure skill, proficiency, competence or performance in educational, home, community, or training settings. The cognitive, language, perceptual-motor, academic, vocational, or social proficiency domains can be addressed. The initial four projects funded under this priority in 1989 include:

- An interactive videodisc system to assess social skills of elementary school students.
- A microcomputer-based expert assessment system to develop specific treatment programs for severely handicapped students.
- An interactive microcomputer-based diagnostic system to assess mathematics performance of elementary-level learning disabled students.
- A videotape and videodisc system to assess traditional skills of deaf adolescents and young adults.

Designs for Multi-Media Instruction for Educating Children with Handicaps. This second 1990 priority supports the development and evaluation of the practical use and implementation of multi-media designs in educational settings. Multi-media learning that integrates text, audio, and visual information, will significantly change the nature of teaching and learning opportunities and in doing so change the nature of classroom management, environments and climates. Projects funded under this priority must include design features critical for multi-media educational materials to address the learning characteristics of children with handicaps and fit the realities inherent to teacher preparation and classroom management.

Name of Agency:	**Rehabilitation Services Administration**
Address:	Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services U.S. Department of Education Switzer Building, 330 C Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20202
Telephone:	202-732-1294

Description of Agency

The Rehabilitation Services Administration supports numerous programs to improve vocational and other rehabilitation services to individuals with severe disabilities. There are a number of programs which RSA administers that are intended to reduce dependency, increase self-reliance, and utilize the productive capabilities of individuals with disabilities. These programs are administered by two divisions: Office of Program Operations and the Office of Developmental Programs.

The Office of Program Operations administers the Basic State Grants, the Client Assistance Program, and Independent Living-Part A. It also administers programs authorized by the Randolph-Sheppard Act.

The Office of Development Programs provides leadership and administers the discretionary program development activities, including support for training, rehabilitation facilities, service projects, and Independent Living-Part B. Discretionary funds are awarded to projects of national significance and projects serving the unique needs of special disabled populations.

Current Activities

RSA just recently awarded seven grants in the area of rehabilitation technology for FY89 to:

- Seaside Education Association, Inc., in Massachusetts to provide consumers, family members, state provider rehabilitation staff, and employers throughout Massachusetts with information and training regarding the identification and use of generic products to increase the independence of individuals with severe disabilities at work and at home (Project Add-Tech).
- State University of New York Research Foundation in Buffalo, New York, to develop and implement a model which assesses consumer satisfaction of the vocational effectiveness of assistive devices used in the workplace by persons with severe disabilities (ACHIEVE: Achieving Employment and Independence with Assistive Devices).
- National Computer Institute at Temple University, Pennsylvania, to develop a community-based model of rehabilitation technology information exchange throughout Philadelphia and the state.

Maryland Rehabilitation Center/Maryland State Department of Education to use advanced microcomputer applications in computer-aided drafting (CAD) for persons with severe disabilities.

- Easter Seal Society of Iowa, Inc., to develop a community-based model to deliver rehabilitation technology services to rural areas in Iowa.
- Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York to develop a workstation simulation laboratory for persons with severe physical disabilities.
- United Cerebral Palsy Association of New Jersey, Inc., to develop and implement a program to place 100 persons who are severely physically disabled into competitive employment. The key component will be to create employment opportunities and provide worksite accommodations.

RSA expects to fund 27 additional rehabilitation technology projects in FY90 (see *Federal Register,* September 15, 1989).

ASSOCIATIONS

Name of Association:	**The American Occupational Therapy Association**
Address:	1383 Piccard Drive Box 1725 Rockville, MD 20850
Telephone:	301-948-9626
Contact Person:	Carol Gwin, Practice and Technology Program Manager Practice Division

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Description of Association

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) was founded in 1917 and is the oldest allied health professional society today. Membership in the organization is open to registered occupational therapists, certified occupational therapy assistants, and occupational therapy students. Associate membership is available to nonprofit entities and to individuals not certified by the American Occupational Therapy Certification Board but who choose to support the profession.

The mission of AOTA is to assure that quality occupational therapy service is accessible when it is needed. To help fulfill its mission, the association provides the following services to its members:

- Professional development
- Workshops at various locations throughout the country
- An annual conference
- Special interest sections
- Self-study programs
- Quality assurance training and resources
- Advocacy
- Collaborative efforts

AOTA publishes a weekly newsletter, *OT Week*, a scholarly journal, *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* monthly, and seven Special Interest Section Newsletters quarterly.

Current Activities

Occupational therapists have a long-standing commitment to the provision of technology. Throughout their history, occupational therapists have utilized low technology assistive devices such as typing aids, built-up spoons, long-handled reachers, and other aids to assure maximum independence in activities of daily living, work, play, and leisure activities. High technology assistive devices such as computers, environmental control units, and other devices are now also being used by the occupational therapist in assessment and service provisions.

Occupational therapists often serve on a technology team and many are involved in research in the area of rehabilitation technology. Some areas in which occupational therapists are working are:

- job-site accommodation
- seating and positioning
- powered mobility
- computer access
- disabled driving
- robotics

AOTA has information packets available on the following topics:

- OT for the Injured Worker
- Accessibility and Architectural Modifications
- Seating and Positioning
- Computers
- Adaptive Equipment/Rehabilitation Technology

It has also published abstracts of papers presented at its 1989 Annual Conference entitled, *Technology Review '89*. The publications are available from the Products Division of AOTA at the address above.

Name of Association: **The American Physical Therapy Association**

Address: 1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone: 703-684-2782

Contact Person: Sherry Keramidas

Description of Association

The American Physical Therapy Association is a national professional organization representing approximately 50,000 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and students in the U.S. The mission of the organization is to increase the understanding of the physical therapist's role in the health care system and to foster improvements in physical therapy education, practice, and research.

Current Activities

APTA offers physical therapists an opportunity to exchange information to assist them in maintaining high standards of professionalism. To foster its goal, APTA provides activities which include:

- *Accreditation*: APTA is the only agency for accrediting entry level physical therapists' and assistants' education programs.
- *Professional Development*: Conferences, seminars, and workshops are held on a regular, continuing basis. In these meetings, physical therapists are able to learn about technology.
- *Quality Assurance*: APTA assists members in evaluating the quality and effectiveness of physical therapy treatments and in developing skills needed to conduct their own evaluations.
- *Research*: APTA promotes clinical and basic research through graduate education programs and presentation and publication of research reports.
- *Information Dissemination*: APTA provides current information to its members, to the public, the media, the government, and to other health care professionals about the physical therapist's role in the health care system.

APTA has 52 chapters and 17 special interest groups. The special inte oups include:

- Administration
- Cardiopulmonary
- Clinical electrophysiology
- Community health
- Education
- Geriatrics

- Hand rehabilitation
- Neurology
- Obstetrics/gynecology
- Oncology
- Orthopaedic
- Pediatrics
- Private practice
- Research
- Sports physical therapy
- State licensure and regulation
- Veterans Administration

A number of Educational Resource Guides are available from the Office Services Department at APTA. One guide specifically addressing technology is entitled *Computers and Physical Therapy.*

Name Of Association:	**American Speech-Language-Hearing Association**
Address:	10801 Rockville Pike Rockville, MD 20852
Telephone:	301-897-5700
Contact Person:	Jim Gelatt

Description Of Association

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association is the scientific and professional association for over 59,000 speech- language pathologists, audiologists, and speech-language and hearing scientists. It is a certifying body for professionals and an accrediting agency for college and university graduate school programs that offer speech-language-hearing services. The Association conducts research in communication disorders and needs assessments of the community for direct services.

There are 50 state affiliates which provide information about clinical services at the local level, and some publish their own newsletters. ASHA sponsors conferences, short courses, institutes, teleconferences, and workshops as part of its professional education program. A monthly publication, *ASHA*, provides ASHA members and nonmembers with up-to-date news about the organization and research in the field. Other publications include the *Journal of Speech and Hearing Research, Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders, Language, Speech and Hearing Services in the Schools, Guide to Professional Services in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology*, and a *Membership Directory*.

Current Activities

ASHA is presently conducting a three-year grant project to train teachers, special educators, and caregivers in the use of assistive technologies for children with severe handicaps. Funded by the Office of Special Education Programs, the "Technology in the Classroom" project will develop three self-instructional videotape and print modules to foster use of technology in educational programs for children with severe handicaps. The modules will offer strategies for using assistive technologies in the educational programs of children ages 2 to 7, specifically in the areas of curriculum, communication, and mobility. Organizations participating with ASHA in the "Technology in the Classroom" project are the Council for Exceptional Children, United Cerebral Palsy Associations of America, the United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, and The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps.

ASHA is also conducting another federally-funded project entitled The Administrative Applications of Technology. The purpose of the two-year project is to gather information about the currrent use of computers and related technology in the administration and management of speech-language pathology and audiology programs in school settings. Exemplary programs will be selected for closer study, and their strategies for incorporating technology in administrative tasks will be used as models in the project's teleconference and educational materials.

As a result of previous projects, ASHA has a number of publications available including:

- *Augmentative Communication: Implementation Strategies* – a comprehensive manual of practical applications for the implementation of augmentative communication strategies in many settings.
- *Curriculum Guide for an Introductory Course in Augmentative Communication – a complete plan for conducting an introductory course in augmentative communication.*
- *Augmentative Communication: An Introduction* – a companion to the curriculum guide that discusses augmentative communication technology and training as a means to enable disabled people to communicate with others.

A videocassette and five booklets on augmentative communication are also available.

In addition, ASHA is making available six new software packages for speech-language-hearing professionals. The packages introduce professionals to computers for a wide range of clinical and administrative purposes. The programs are available for either IBM or Apple computers. For more information about these products, contact ASHA at the address listed above.

Name of Association:	**The Association for Retarded Citizens of the United States**
Address:	2501 Avenue J P.O. Box 6109 Arlington, Texas 76006
Telephone:	817-640-0204
Contact Person:	Dr. Carrie Brown

Description of Association

The Association for Retarded Citizens of the United States is a nonprofit, volunteer organization that is devoted solely to improving the welfare of all children and adults with mental retardation and their families. The Association, the largest of its kind, provides services to parents and other individuals, organizations, and communities for jointly meeting the needs of people with mental retardation.

The ARC is a grassroots organization that was formed in 1950 by a small group of parents and concerned individuals. There are approximately 160,000 members and 1,300 state and local chapters across the nation. ARC chapters differ in their services and interests, offering a diverse array of activities and opportunities for becoming involved with the lives of children and adults with mental retardation and their families. There are parent support groups, citizen advocacy programs, recreational activities, public education efforts, and employment programs.

Current Activities

Activities underway at the Association for Retarded Citizens of the United States include:

- A nationwide television, radio, and print media campaign to educate the public about people with mental retardation.
- Bioengineering Research Program that applies technologies to help children and adults achieve greater independence.
- A research fund that supports activities related to reducing the effects of mental retardation and preventing the condition.
- An effort to work with policy makers to protect the rights of children and adults with mental retardation and to create and expand programs for them.
- Projects to help local communities meet the needs of children from birth through age three and their families, as well as to help students leaving school make the transition to adulthood.
- A public inquiries program that answers questions and provides information to parents, students, professionals, and the public-at-large about all aspects of mental retardation.

The Bioengineering Program, which was established in 1982, has three major goals:

- To investigate procedures and techniques that improve the use of existing technology by children and adults with mental retardation;
- To develop new assistive technology and systems to address unmet needs; and
- To provide technical assistance to parents and professionals.

Research projects being conducted by the Bioengineering Programs are:

- Autonomy Research – A track of research in which systems are designed that will allow individuals with severe disabilities to control their environment and to communicate. Innovative research and development with speech recognition technology and eyegaze/headpointing technology is being conducted.
- Independent Toileting – A bladder sensor has been developed and is being marketed that will monitor the bladder with ultrasound and then emit a signal to the user at bladder fullness.
- Memory Retraining – An interactive computer software program has been developed that assesses a user memory functioning and the use of cognitive strategies, and then assists in remediating any deficiencies discovered.
- Independence in Eating – An intelligent automated assistive feeding device is being developed for individuals who are unable to feed themselves.
- Improved Health – A computerized system which uses a video and audio component to motivate and maintain activity on exercise equipment while providing interactive instruction in environmental awareness is being developed.
- Information Sharing – An electronic bulletin board and mail system (The Developmental Disability Connection) and an electronic database (The Developmental Disability Technology Library) that focuses on information and issues dealing with assistive technology are being developed.

Each of the above projects culminates in evaluation and refinement of the prototypes with children and adults who are mentally retarded in home, school, and work environments in local communities. The field tests involve extensive evaluations to derive important information about the functioning of the devices, the effectiveness of their use, and appropriate training procedures. ARC does not manufacture products for the commercial market, but it seeks to insure that the products that are developed reach the people for whom they were designed. To that end, ARC works with commercial manufacturers and publishers to make the products available and to provide appropriate educational and support services.

Name of Association: **The Council for Exceptional Children**

Address: 1920 Association Drive
Reston, VA 22091

Telephone: 703-620-3660

Contact Person: Member and Unit Services

Description of Association

The Council for Exceptional Children is a nonprofit membership organization that was established in 1922 to advance the education of exceptional children and youth. CEC's commitment encompasses four major priority areas:

- To advance the education of exceptional persons.
- To improve the conditions under which professionals work with exceptional persons.
- To improve the quality of instruction provided exceptional persons.
- To advance The Council for Exceptional Children.

There are over 1,000 chapters and federations of The Council for Exceptional Children located in the U.S. and Canada, making up a membership of approximately 55,000. CEC's 15 divisions are special organizations concentrating on a particular exceptionality or aspect of the field, including the Technology and Media Division which focuses on the use of technology with special education.

Two professional journals are included with membership in the Council: *Teaching Exceptional Children* and *Exceptional Children.* The Council publishes a catalog of all its products and services, including those available from its special interest divisions.

The Council for Exceptional Children houses the ERIC Clearinghouse on Handicapped and Gifted Children, the ERIC/OSEP Special Project, and the Clearinghouse on Careers and Professions, as well as Project RETOOL and the Center for Special Education Technology.

Current Activities

The Council for Exceptional Children's annual international convention features sessions on technology; topical conferences and academies are also conducted with a focus on technology. The annual Technology and Media (TAM) conference addresses issues related to the effective use of technology and involves researchers, practitioners, and producers of technology products. TAM's most recent conference was held in January 1990 in Lexington, Kentucky.

CEC houses two federally funded technology projects: *Project RETOOL* and the Center for Special Education Technology.

Project RETOOL was recently funded for another 3 years with a focus on integrating special education technology into the higher education curriculum. From 1989 to 1991, the project staff plans to develop nine modules that are intended to update teacher educators' knowledge

and skills in special education technology. There will also be three workshops held each year at college campuses across the country.

The Center for Special Education Technology, funded by the Office of Special Education Programs, began the third of its four-year contract on October 1, 1989. The Center has made a commitment to fill information gaps in the special education technology field by identifying themes on which to focus attention. Planning has begun on three themes: assistive technology, funding, and training. Information products are being developed for each theme.

Under the assistive technology theme, products already available include: Proceedings of the State Forum on Technology-Related Assistance (conducted in April 1989), a directory of national product databases, and this directory of assistive technology resources.

Other Center products that may be of general interest to special education personnel are the Resource Inventories, Tech Use Guides, and Marketplace Reports. For information on Center products, call 1-800-873-8255.

The ERIC/OSEP Special Project provides a series of topical directories on research projects, including one on technology, funded by the Office of Special Education Programs.

For information about the organization and its activities, contact the Department of Member and Unit Services. For inquiries about the federally-funded projects, specify the project by name when contacting CEC.

Name of Association:	**The National Easter Seal Society**
Address:	70 East Lake Street *Chicago, Illinois 60601*
Telephone:	312-726-6200 312-726-4258 (TDD)
Contact Person:	William Salyers

Description of Association

The National Easter Seal Society is the world's oldest and largest not-for-profit organization providing direct services to people with disabilities. Founded in 1919, the Society is universally recognized as the organization that pioneered identifying the needs of people with disabilities and providing rehabilitation services to meet those needs. Easter Seal serves approximately one million people a year nationally.

The mission of The National Easter Seal Society is "to promote maximum independence of people with disabilities." Individuals of all ages that have disabilities resulting from any cause can find assistance through Easter Seal programs. The needs of individuals who have disabilities vary greatly. Therefore, the services provided by Easter Seal cover a wide range including physical, occupational, and speech-language therapies, vocational evaluation and training, camping and recreation, and pyschological counseling. The Society provides:

- Direct services
- Advocacy
- Preventive screening
- Public education
- Research
- Technical assistance to affiliates
- Training and leadership to affiliates

Approximately 200 state and local Easter Seal Societies operate more than 400 program service sites in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Services provided by local societies are tailored to meet specific community needs.

Current Activities

Easter Seal has a long history of being innovative when it comes to methods, applications, research, and programs to serve persons with disabilities. In 1988, as a member of the Coalition on Technology and Disability, Easter Seal helped to secure passage of the Technology-Related Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities Act. The National Society played a leading role in the development and promotion of this important piece of legislation by organizing an exhibit on technology in conjunction with the Senate hearings.

In 1988, Easter Seal opened 10 Computer Assistive Technology Centers (CATS) nationwide with the assistance of local Easter Seals. A total of 30 centers are expected to open by the end of 1989. ESS has developed Rehabware ™, an integrated computer software program for vocational and medical rehabilitation facilities.

Easter Seal is collaborating with IBM in offering a discount for computer systems through a select group of their local Easter Seal centers.

In addition, Easter Seal received the RENSA Leadership Award for its contribution to the field of rehabilitation technology.

Name of Association:	**RESNA, The Association for the Advancement of Rehabilitation Technology**
Address:	1101 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036
Telephone:	202-857-1199
Contact Person:	Richard A. Foulds, President

Description of Association

RESNA, established in 1979, is an interdisciplinary association for the advancement of rehabilitation and assistive technologies. Membership includes rehabilitation professionals, providers, and consumers who are dedicated to promoting interaction among these groups so that the benefits of modern technology will be put to work for disabled persons.

The association was established to furnish leadership and to foster advancement and utilization of rehabilitation technology in its broadest sense. Its purpose is to promote and support the research, development, dissemination, integration, and utilization of knowledge in rehabilitation technology and to ensure that these efforts result in the highest quality of service delivery and care for all disabled people.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) respond to the need for a communication network within the rehabilitation community to address the diverse needs of consumers, providers, and industry. Fourteen SIGs have been established to date. These are:

- Service Delivery Practice
- Personal Transportation
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication
- Prosthetics and Orthotics
- Quantitative Functional Assessment
- Technology Transfer
- Sensory Aids
- Wheeled Mobility and Seating
- Electrical Stimulation
- Computer Applications
- Rural Rehabilitation
- Robotics
- Information Networking
- Gerontology

Current Activities

RESNA holds an annual conference. The conferences are held at various locations in North America. Regional conferences that are designed to provide members with an opportunity to meet more frequently are conducted two or three times each year at various locations in the United States. Other symposia and workshops are held periodically to seek answers to questions critical to the welfare of disabled persons.

The proceedings of the conferences are published, as well as other publications emanating from the work of RESNA committees or from rehabilitation professionals. RESNA brings together individuals whose backgrounds vary widely in terms of credentials and interests, but who are committed to designing, developing, and evaluating devices, and to making the delivery process work.

Delivering the benefits of technology to disabled persons requires an approach in which the interactions among the components are as important as the system itself. RESNA is developing strategies to establish these interactions, to remove barriers that inhibit success, and to develop a consensus on critical questions such as definition of needs, funding requirements for research and development, education and training, monitoring legislation, working with manufacturers to enhance high standards, and promoting the marketing and use of new devices. To that end, RESNA serves as a catalyst and information center to address urgent issues that must be resolved so that disabled persons can enjoy living to the fullest extent possible.

RESNA was recently awarded the national technical assistance contract under the Technology-Related Assistance Act by NIDRR. (See section on state grants in this directory.)

Name of Association:	**United Cerebral Palsy Association, Inc.**
Address:	Community Services Division 1522 K Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20005
Telephone:	800-USA-5UCP
Contact Person:	Michael Morris

Description of Association

United Cerebral Palsy Associations (UCPA) Inc., is a private nonprofit agency with 180 affiliates in 45 states who are concerned with meeting the needs of persons with cerebral palsy and similar disabilities and their families.

UCPA at the national level provides funds for applied and basic research, for the training of professionals across multiple disciplines, for parents, and for individuals with disabilities who work in the fields of medicine, education, and rehabilitation; acts as an advocate for the civil rights of persons with disabilities in the areas of education, employment, independent living, and public access; and through its affiliates, provides direct services such as medical diagnosis, evaluation and treatment, special education, career development, social and recreational programs, employment, parent counseling, adapted housing, advocacy, and community education. The four priority areas for policy and program development at local, state, and national levels are early intervention, technology, family support and employment.

Current Activities

Through legislative advocacy and program development at local and state levels, UCP has established itself as a national leader in assistive technology. Across the country, UCP affiliates are providing a number of technology services, such as mobile vans, toy lending libraries, work site accommodation. In addition, UCP collaborates with IBM to provide discounted computer equipment and with Apple Computers, Inc. to introduce computer learning to very young children with severe disabilities.

Nationally, UCP is involved in activities such as:

- Providing awareness about the uses of technology.
- Working to increase the federal appropriation level for assistive technology.
- Determining Quality Indicators that identify effective practices for successful technology programs.

UCP has two federally funded projects that provide technology-related services. The S.M.A.R.T. Exchange, funded jointly by NIDRR and UCP, is a project designed to improve the delivery of assistive technology services in the southeastern region. The project seeks to:

- Identify promising technology-related service-delivery programs.
- Disseminate information about exemplary programs through existing channels.

- Facilitate the exchange of information between the programs and other organizations.

The Exchange is seeking to identify programs using assistive technology in six broad areas: early intervention, education, transitional services, employment, independent living, and recreation/leisure. A set of quality indicators has been identified which will be used to select programs. The indicators include a comprehensive service delivery model, parent and consumer involvement, and a commitment to help other programs replicate effective practices.

UCPA will also be assisting RESNA on a recently awarded contract by NIDRR to provide technical assistance and information to states on the development and implementation of a consumer-responsive statewide program of technology-related assistance under the Technology-Related Assistance Act of 1988 (P.L. 100- 407). (See the section on state grants in this directory.)

Finally, through another federally funded grant, UCPA is demonstrating successful job placement for persons with severe physical disabilities through the use of rehabilitation technology.

Name of Association:	**The United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication**
Address:	c/o Barkley Memorial Center University of Nebraska Lincoln, NE 68588
Telephone:	402-472-5463
Contact Person:	Judy K. Montgomery, President (1990-91)

Description of Association

The United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (USSAAC) is a national chapter of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC). The purposes of USSAAC are to enhance the communication effectiveness of persons who can benefit from augmentative and alternative communication and to support the purposes of ISAAC.

ISAAC, was founded in 1983 by a group of therapists, teachers, consumers, parents, engineers, and other professionals from many countries, including the United States. The purpose of ISAAC is to advance the transdisciplinary field of augmentative and alternative communication. ISAAC provides a conduit for information exchange and focuses attention on work being done to help people with communication difficulties throughout the world.

USSAAC is the organization for all persons interested in augmentative and alternative communication in the United States. The specific purposes of USSAAC are to:

- Assist individuals in their right to communicate, allowing their full participation in society.
- Promote public awareness.
- Influence national and state public policy and legislation.
- Disseminate legislative, regulatory, and funding information.
- Facilitate quality service delivery.
- Promote transdisciplinary professional education.
- Foster local, state, and regional activities.
- Complement and support ISAAC goals and activities.
- Work with other organizations serving the interests of AAC clients.

Current Activities

USSAAC provides its members with the following services:

- State activity organization and promotion assistance.
- An opportunity to have a voice in national issues.
- USSAAC sponsored conferences and workshops with reduced registration fees.
- Quarterly national newsletter.

- Quarterly issues of the official journal of ISAAC, *Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).*

The Executive Committee of USSAAC consists of the president, the past president and vice president for Organizational Affairs, the vice president for Professional Affairs, the vice president for Financial Affairs, the president elect/vice president for State Affairs, as well as a representative from the National Institute on Disabilities and Rehabilitation Research. USSAAC also has 13 standing committees.

USAAC is an advocacy group for the severely speech-language disabled person. The organization does not provide direct services.

REHABILITATION ENGINEERING CENTERS

Name of Center:	**Center on Rehabilitation Technology Transfer**
Address:	Professional Staff Association of Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, Inc. 7601 E. Imperial Highway - Bonita Hall Downey, CA 90242
Telephone:	213-940-7994
Contact Person:	Donald McNeal

Description of Center

The Rancho Rehabilitation Engineering Program is one of 16 centers funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. It is one of two centers whose main objective is the transfer of technology. The overall goal of this program is to facilitate the flow of technology from invention or device conception to end products that can be purchased and used by individuals with disabilities. The Center is funded for 5 years and began operating August 1, 1988. The Center will collaborate with selected investigators from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles and Children's Hospital, Palo Alto.

Current Activities

Three projects are underway at the Center. Two are being conducted at the Rancho Los Amigos Medical Center, one of these in collaboration with investigators from the University of Southern California. The third project is being performed at Children's Hospital at Stanford in Palo Alto.

The first project is to increase the impact of NIDRR-supported research on the commercial market. The goals of the project are to work with other RECs and NIDRR-supported investigators to make sure that research results are appropriate to the needs of disabled individuals and have commercial potential, and to document the impact of NIDRR-supported research on the distribution and ultilization of new products.

The second project deals with rehabilitation technology training. The ultimate goal of this project is to improve the delivery of technology by addressing the training needs of professionals who are in a position to recommend technology. The first phase of the project is focused on identifying and meeting the technology training needs of occupational therapists. Based on the experience with occupational therapists, training programs for other disciplines will be developed.

The third project is on the implementation and follow-up of rehabilitation technology. The purpose of this study is to improve the transfer of rehabilitation technology to people with physical disabilities by developing, testing, and promoting a system that emphasizes implementation and follow-up.

The expected outcomes of these projects include:

- More products with commercial potential to be produced by NIDRR supported investigators.
- Training programs and materials on delivery of rehab technology for rehab professionals; product information and follow-up on user satisfaction with equipment which will be documented.
- Information that will lower the threat of liability on high-risk products.
- Disabled consumers who will be better served by professionals and vendors.

Name of Center:	**Rehabilitation Engineering Center for Technology Resources**
Address:	Institute for Human Resource Development 78 Eastern Boulevard Glastonbury, CT 06033
Telephone:	203-657-9954
Contact Person:	Penelope Cargonne

Description of Center

The Rehabilitation Engineering Center for Technology Resources (REC) was funded in 1987 by NIDRR. The Center was established to develop, demonstrate, and disseminate innovative models for the delivery of cost effective engineering services to individuals in both rural and urban areas. These models should be replicable by state vocational rehabilitation agencies, independent living centers, or other public or private organizations providing rehabilitation technology services. The Center's mission is to:

- Promote the use of technology developments in order to meet the needs of individuals who are disabled in employment, education, and independent living. Assist in the identification and removal of barriers that individuals with disabilities face.
- Coordinate the dissemination of information and other activities with other rehabilitation engineering centers and relevant projects funded by NIDRR.

Thus, the Connecticut REC will be a national resource for information on rehabilitation engineering and education in service delivery. It will also seek to advance the application of service delivery to previously underserved groups such as people with cognitive and visual impairments.

Current Activities

The REC has three components which gather, disseminate, and evalute technology information:

Technology Education – includes education, curriculum development, and information dissemination.

Model Services – includes community-based case-finding, evaluation and service planning, technology prescription, procurement, technology fabrication, modification and repair, and consumer technology training and retraining.

Evaluation and Research – includes quality assurance, evaluation and research functions.

The REC will be providing on-site services from a mobile technology van. The goal of this mobile service is to provide service to all persons with disabilities in a timely and accessible

manner. The van will provide fabrication and repair, demonstration and try-out, and evaluation.

As a collaborative project with Newington Children's Hospital, the REC has available for dissemination a number of information directories of resources available in the state.

The REC is a test site for Hyper-ABLEDATA which is a computerized database on over 15,000 commercially available products that can be used by persons with disabilities. The Center is also a licensee for Closing the Gap's Solutions II, a trademark database containing information about microcomputer technology for persons with disabilities.

To implement a comprehensive technology service delivery, the REC has instituted a number of projects:

TechAccess projects provide on-site technical assistance to service providers.

TransferTech projects seek to transfer and integrate exemplary examples of technology approaches into the Connecticut service system.

Forecasting projects assist major providers in forecasting the extent of need for rehabilitation technology services.

The Partners in Technology Projects involves a number of community agencies who will test and demonstrate methods for increasing the accessibility and availability of technology services.

Name of Center:	**Center on Rehabilitation Technology Transfer**
Address:	Electronic Industries Foundation 1901 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Suite 700 Washington, DC 20006
Telephone:	202-955-5822
Contact:	Lawrence Scadden

Description of Center

The Electronic Industries Foundation (EIF) was funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) to operate a Rehabilitation Engineering Center on technology transfer. The goal of this center is to conduct research and to disseminate knowledge aimed at improving the flow of technology through the transfer process with ultimate delivery to persons who benefit from its use. The research is aimed at stimulating industry participation in the assistive technology marketplace. This goal has been a mission of the Rehabilitation Engineering Center since its establishment in 1983.

Current Activities

The Rehabilitation Engineering Center is conducting a series of research projects designed to improve the flow of modern technology to people with disabilities. The projects are designed to address four specific problem areas affecting transfer of technology to the intended market.

Needs Assessment. The research staff is investigating various needs assessment techniques, such as focus group and mail survey techniques, to assess their application in the assistive technology field. The techniques are being used to sample the perceived attitudes and needs of various groups with disabilities regarding technology currently being used and also technology which is needed or desired. This particular project is intended to provide researchers, independent developers, industry, and government funding agencies with information necessary for them to prioritize and plan future research and development projects.

Alternative Payment Strategies. The project staff is reviewing, documenting, and disseminating information concerning existing public and private sector payment alternatives. Efforts are planned to establish new, innovative payment programs that can be evaluated during the REC's funding cycle. This project is intended to assist people with disabilities in acquiring assistive technology directly, while stimulating industry participation in the marketplace by increasing market demand.

Safety and Liability Issues. The Center is reviewing and documenting the effects of liability insurance costs and the perceived threat of liability lawsuits upon company participation in the assistive technology field.

Models of Universal Accessibility Designs. EIF/REC staff is working with industry in the development of recommended design features that will increase the access to products by people with functional limitations. Design considerations are being written and prepared jointly by rehabilitation technologists and industry design engineers. These design considerations will be circulated throughout the U.S. manufacturing community for review and comment. Staff from the rehabilitation engineering center and the human factors committee of the Electronic Industries Association will then promote implementation of the design considerations by disseminating them to company officers and design departments. The center will also conduct educational seminars at industry and professional conferences. The intent of this project is to increase the functional capability of persons with disabilities by facilitating their use of mass market consumer products.

Name of Center:	**The Center for Rehabilitation Technology Services**
Address:	South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department 1410-C Boston Avenue P.O. Box 15 West Columbia, SC 29171-0015
Telephone:	803-739-5362
Contact Person:	Anthony J. Langton

Description of Center

The Center for Rehabilitation Technology Services is operated as part of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department and is funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). The Center, funded for 5 years, is one of two rehabilitation engineering centers established to address the delivery of assistive technology services for people with disabilities.

A primary goal of The Center is to select and implement effective methods for making technology and technology-related resources available to people with disabilities. The Center hopes to increase the general awareness of assistive technology services and to promote cooperative programming between the various agencies and service delivery programs in the state. The needs of people of all ages and with any type of disability will be addressed by providing them with information, training, and technical assistance on applications of technology. The Center for Rehabilitation Technology Services will also serve as a resource center to all of the southeastern states (Region IV) and will disseminate project results nationwide.

Current Activities

The Center is developing a comprehensive technical resource collection to provide information on a variety of assistive technology applications and services. Included are catalogs and product literature, journals, magazines, and other periodicals in the field; research reports and conference proceedings; audiovisual materials; and many reference guides and directories. The Center has technology resource specialists available who will tailor a literature or product search to the specific needs of the requestor.

The Center will also conduct a variety of orientation seminars and training workshops for both professionals and consumers on assistive technology applications. Through consultation, training, and technical information, The Center helps to develop improved services and expertise in the state and region relative to assistive technology.

The Center for Rehabilitation Technology Services is conducting a number of research and demonstration projects involving various aspects of assistive technology services. Several projects include sources of funding, information dissemination, a service provider database directory, models for service delivery, and an assessment of needs of consumers and service providers. Additional projects include a symposia series on technology applications and other research topics.

Name of Center: Center on Evaluation of Assistive Technology

Address: National Rehabilitation Hospital
102 Irving Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20010-2949

Telephone: 202-877-1932
202-726-3996 (TDD)

Contact Person: Jan Galvin, Acting Director

Description of Center

The Rehabilitation Engineering Center (REC) for Evaluation of Assistive Technology was funded in 1987 by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. (NIDRR) The 5-year project, housed at the National Rehabilitation Hospital, is known as the REquest Program. The main objective of the center is to develop ways of collecting, producing, and distributing information to help users, prescribers, and third-party payers make intelligent and appropriate selections of a wide range of assistive devices. The REquest Program is the information collection and dissemination function of the Rehabilitation Engineering Center. The main goal of the REquest Program is to establish a Center of Excellence for the Evaluation of Assistive Technology.

Current Activities

The REquest Program is examining current rehabilitation systems to identify factors that influence product design, product testing, clinical assessment, third-party purchasing, and user selection. From that, the REquest staff will develop and disseminate informational materials and uniform methods that can be used to train clinicians, users, and payors to make more appropriate choices of assistive technology.

The REquest Program will assist ECRI, internationally recognized in providing product performance information to the health care industry, in compiling listings of comparable features of selected rehabilitation products and in conducting and publishing assessments of product safety and performance of these products. The evaluations and comparative studies will be available from the REquest Program.

The Program will also assist product developers in preparing products for use and acceptance by all consumers. An underlying assumption of the REquest Program is that the value of a rehabilitation product is not intrinsic; it derives from the satisfaction of the individual who uses it.

STATE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTERS

Name of Center:	**Center for Technology**
Address:	Delaware Learning Resource System 018A Willard Hall Education Building University of Delaware Newark, DE 19716
Telephone:	302-451-2084
Contact Person:	Jennifer Taylor

Description of Center

With the support of the Delaware Department of Public Instruction, Division for Exceptional Children/Special Programs, the Delaware Learning Resource Center has established a Center for Technology. The Center, housed at the University of Delaware, is committed to new technologies in the area of special education with the major emphasis on computers and assistive devices.

Current Activities

The Center provides the following services:

- Housing of equipment for diagnostic/prescriptive services. By appointment, educational staff, community service agencies, and parents may bring clients to the Center to assess their needs in support technology. Evaluation tools in many areas are available. Previewing of available equipment and devices before purchase is encouraged. Consultants may also arrange to use the center for profile work-ups.
- In-service training. A centralized year-round computer facility enhances personnel development by providing lectures and hands-on experience with new technology. The University provides technological resources to augment DLRS courses. Specialized consultants are brought in for workshops as needed. Training tapes are made available for on-site training.
- Limited loan arrangements. Based on need, DLRS clients may contract to sign out certain equipment for preview or analysis. Staff support personnel services are available for the 3- to 21- year-old population. The following items are available for loan: evaluation tools, communication aids, speech and sound devices, entry devices, ergonomic modification, adaptive switches, IEP, testing and academic software preview, and training tapes.

Name of Center:	**Living and Learning Resource Centre**
Address:	601 West Maple Lansing, MI 48906
Telephone:	517-487-0883 (Voice & TDD) 800-833-1996 (In MI, Voice & TDD)
Contact Person:	Donna Heiner, Ed. S., Director

Description of Center

The Living and Learning Resource Centre provides a comprehensive information and demonstration center on the selection, development, and adaptation of high technology for educational and vocational purposes. The special focus of the LLRC is low-incidence populations, such as individuals with vision or multiple impairments.

The LLRC offers individuals or agencies the opportunity of obtaining information on or previewing adaptive equipment and software. Located in the Library of the Michigan School for the Blind in Lansing, the LLRC houses a variety of computers, adaptive accessories, and augmentative communication devices. A grant from the Michigan Commission for the Blind has made possible a wide assortment of equipment and software specifically designed for individuals with visual impairments. The LLRC is a statewide initiated project awarded to the Physically Impaired Association of Michigan by the Michigan Board of Education and is a member of the National Special Education Alliance.

The LLRC has five major goals:

- To serve as an information clearinghouse.
- To provide training.
- To conduct diagnostic assessments.
- To evaluate equipment for the handicapped.
- To identify modifications of tools and/or the work environment for individuals with physical handicaps.

Current Activities

The following activities are priorities for the Centre:

- Providing a demonstration center for professionals, parents, and individuals to view a variety of adaptive equipment.
- Reponding to requests for information regarding the selection, use, and availability of adaptive technology. To facilitate access to current and accurate information, the LLRC maintains files on manufacturers of adaptive equipment, devices, software, and state and national resources.

- Collaborating with and complementing the activities of other organizations in the State of Michigan. The Centre is involved with the Coalition of Organizations to Promote the Use of Technology in Special Education (COMPUTE).
- Participating in pre-service and in-service training activities for special educators and other interested individuals. Because of its emphasis on the visually impaired, the LLRC is being used as a practicum site for Michigan State University students. The Centre also offers a series of introductory sessions emphasizing specific items of adaptive equipment.
- Providing an evaluation center. The LLRC provides consultations on the selection of adaptive technology for children and adults. Staff members work with the individual and members of his or her team (special education teacher, speech pathologist, rehabilitation counselor, occupational and/or physical therapist, parents) to determine the probability of successful utilization of a specific device.

Name of Center:	**Technology Center for Special Education**
Address:	University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Education, Room 24 Kansas City, MO 64110-2499
Telephone:	800-872-7066 816-276-1040
Contact Person:	Valita Marshall

Description of Center

The Missouri Technology Center for Special Education is a project funded by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Division of Special Education. The project is housed at the University of Missouri in Kansas City and offers training and technical assistance to Missouri special educators.

Current Activities

The Technology Center operates a toll-free hotline for special educators in Missouri (800-872-7066). Center staff is available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday to answer questions. The Center also assists faculty members in locating and integrating software into specific courses, literature reviews, and recommendations for special education technology resource collections.

The Center provides training at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels on a variety of topics. Regional workshops are scheduled around the state. The staff and the Technology Center present exhibits at most major conferences within the state. Arrangements can be made for special presentations to a department, class, or graduate seminar.

The Center also houses a resource collection which includes software and hardware catalogs, resource books, computer periodicals, and a small software library. The Center maintains a mailing list of faculty members interested in receiving monthly packets of information which have been downloaded from SpecialNet, an electronic information system for special educators.

Walk-in services at the Center include a range of computer hardware and software which educators can examine and try out firsthand. Center staff will demonstrate adaptive devices designed to meet the needs of a particular pupil or group of pupils at schools around the state as well as conduct workshops on the integration of devices and software into the curriculum.

Name of Center:	**Assistive Device Center**
Address:	Central Pennsylvania Special Education Regional Resource Center (SERRC) 150 South Progress Street Harrisburg, PA 17109
Telephone:	800-222-7372 (in PA) or 717-657-5840
Contact Person:	Roland T. Hahn, II

Description of Center

The Pennsylvania Special Education Assistive Device Center, funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, is a statewide service of the Central Pennsylvania Special Education Regional Resource Center (SERRC). Its purpose is to provide school personnel with consultation, training, and resources regarding state-of-the-art high technology assistive devices. ADC services are available to students with disabilities who are preschool to age 21, and to educators and parents who work with disabled children.

The Assistive Device Center is concerned primarily with communication aids and computer access devices. These devices are extremely useful to students who cannot use their hands to write/type, and to students who are unable to speak due to a motor disability. Additionally, assistive devices may be used in educational therapy sessions and to control electrical appliances and toys.

Services available through the Assistive Device Center include:

Consultative/continuing education services. Provides consultation and training services to LEA personnel serving individual students. Site visits and special interest group training is also available.

In-services and videotapes. In-services are available as well as videotape training on specific device operation and application.

Information/demonstration/loans. Staff respond to written and phone requests for information; demonstrations of equipment can be conducted at LEA sites; and short- and long-term loans of assistive device equipment to intermediate units, school districts, and approved schools are arranged through pilot programs coordinated by the ADC.

Referrals. ADC is acquiring information about services available throughout Pennsylvania. Persons and agencies may be referred to local resources for services.

Technical troubleshooting. A toll-free hotline is operated for Pennsylvania residents from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 5 days a week, to answer questions regarding assistive devices.

COMPUTER VENDORS

Name of Vendor:	**National Support Center for Persons with Disabilities**
Affiliation:	IBM Corporation
Address:	P.O. Box 2150 Atlanta, GA 30055
Telephone:	800-IBM-2133 (Continental USA Voice) 404-988-2733 (Continental USA TDD)

Description of Vendor

The IBM National Support Center for Persons with Disabilities was created to help educators, health care leaders, agency directors, policy makers, employers, public officials, and individuals learn how technology can improve the quality of life for an individual with a disability in the school, home, and workplace. The Center is a national clearinghouse and demonstration center for information on products and services available for people with disabilities. In addition, the Center assists IBM's research teams in understanding more about the needs of the disabled and where technology can meet those needs.

Current Activities

The Center maintains a database that highlights products, vendors, and support groups which can assist individuals with a disability in using computer-related technology. The database describes resources for people with vision, hearing, speech, mobility, and learning impairments. While the Center is unable to diagnose or prescribe an assistive device or software, information is provided at no charge regarding what is available from many other organizations and companies and where one can go for more details. To request information, one can call toll-free 800-426- 2133 (voice) or 800-284-9482 (TDD) or write IBM at the above address.

In conjunction with IBM-selected community service organizations, IBM offers a program that makes it easier for persons with disabilities to purchase computers for rehabilitative and therapeutic purposes. Under the program, eligible individuals may purchase IBM Personal System/2 computer products at a discount and may receive assistance from local affiliates of the community service organizations when selecting, ordering and installing equipment.

IBM is also developing technology to help persons with disabilities lead more productive lives. Three products are available in the Independence Series. The first is the IBM Screen Reader that enables people who are blind and visually- impaired to become computer users through voice communication from the computer. The visually-impaired user hears the words on a computer display, the same words that a sighted user would see.

The second Independence Series product is the IBM Personal System/2 SpeechViewer. SpeechViewer is a clinical tool for speech pathologists and teachers of the hearing impaired that provides feedback to speech input with animated and technical displays.

The recently announced PhoneCommunicator is the third in the Series. PhoneCommunicator brings telephone communications options to persons who are hearing- and/or speech-im-

paired through the power of an IBM personal computer. It communicates with most Touch-Tone telephones and Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TDDs) and enables other computer applications to run while PhoneCommunicator is active.

Name of Vendor: **Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation**

Address: Apple Computer, Inc.
20525 Mariani Avenue, MS 43S
Cupertino, CA 95014

Telephone: 408-974-7910

Description of Vendor

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation was established in 1985 by Apple Computer, Inc. to address the needs of the disabled community. The office has three broad goals: increasing awareness, providing response, and developing accessible products. Apple works with teachers and administrators, disabled consumers, parents, rehabilitation engineers, therapists, and product developers in order to make sure that Apple computers are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Current Activities

Apple Solutions

Apple shares information by using electronic resources to "accelerate the adoption of computers into the lives of individuals with disabilities." Apple's Solutions Database contains information on third-party products and resources that customize Apple computers to the needs of individuals with disabilities. The database is also available in a hardcopy version titled *Apple Computer Resources in Special Education and Rehabilitation* which is available from DLM (1-800-527-4747). A 24-hour-a-day electronic bulletin board on SpecialNet is maintained to provide access to the database and to ask questions.

Developer Program

Apple has a certified developer program that enables developers to receive current product information, technical assistance, and price reductions on equipment. Developers are provided with information on how to develop and market customized equipment for the disabled consumer.

National Special Education Alliance Foundation

Apple established the National Special Education Alliance centers in 1987. The NSEA Foundation brings together a core of established organizations dedicated to providing community-based resources to help individuals with disabilities benefit from technology-related assistance in school, at home, on the job, and in the community. The NSEA resource centers, of which there are currently 38, are composed of parents of disabled children and disabled consumers working together with school and university personnel, professional organizations, community leaders, and technology vendors. The goal of the centers is to increase awareness, understanding, and implementation of microcomputer technology in the lives of disabled children and adults. Each center, a nonprofit agency, is autonomous and assumes independent responsibility for sustaining the growth of its local programs.

The technology vendors and professional organizations that are members of the Alliance support the centers with technical assistance, updated information, and in some instances, discount purchasing and equipment loan programs. For more information about the NSEA Foundation, contact Jacquelyn Brand, 2095 Rose Street, Berkeley, CA 94709, 415-540-5676.

TECHNOLOGY-RELATED ASSISTANCE ACT

Name of Program:	**National Technical Assistance Center for Technology-Related Assistance**
Address:	RESNA 1101 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Suite 700 Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone:	202-857-1199
Contact Person:	Karen Franklin, Director

Abstract

RESNA, an interdisciplinary association for the advancement of rehabilitation and assistive technologies, has been awarded a contract by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). The purpose of this contract is to provide technical assistance and information to States on the development and implementation of a consumer-responsive statewide program of technology-related assistance under the Technology Related Assistance Act of 1989 (P.L. 100-407). The purpose of this act is to provide discretionary funds to States on a competitive basis to develop such a system.

The first nine states to receive funding under P.L. 100-407 are: Arkansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Colorado, Utah, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, and Nebraska.

NIDRR will be funding additional states each year. It is hoped that all 50 states and territories will be funded by 1995.

This contract provides RESNA the resources to:

- Develop technical assistance plans for the states receiving funding under P.L. 100-407.
- Produce a directory of expert consultants in assistive technology services.
- Publish a newsletter *Technology Assistance Quarterly,* and other written materials on the delivery of assistive technology services.
- Provide states access to an electronic bulletin board designed to share information among states and interested parties.
- Design an evaluation package to analyze states' progress towards the development of a consumer-responsive assistive technology delivery system.
- Host three meetings especially designed to meet the needs of states as they develop their state systems.
- Bring together an office of professionals in the area of assistive technology who can provide ongoing support to states and individuals.
- Organize a library of information which will foster the development of assistive technology services.
- Provide technical assistance to states and other interested parties through visits, telephone, or by mail on developing consumer-responsive systems of assistive technology.

Name of Program: **Arkansas Technology Access Program**

Address:
Department of Human Services
Division of Rehabilitation Services
P.O. Box 1437
Little Rock, AR 72203-1437

Telephone: 501-682-6689

Contact Person: Sue Gaskin

Abstract

Technology plays an important role in all of our lives. No one can potentially benefit more from technology than an individual with disabilities. Representing a cooperative effort to find solutions to problems Arkansans with disabilities have in obtaining technology, the Arkansas Technology Access Program (ARTAP) was conceptualized by a committee of 48 persons representing persons with disabilities, their families, and 25 public and private agencies and organizations. The purpose of ARTAP is to create and support a consumer-responsive, statewide system for enabling Arkansans with disabilities to access needed technologies regardless of their age or particular disability. The goals for this program are to:

- Develop an ongoing consumer-driven technology planning and evaluation system.
- Develop a statewide technology information/service system.
- Establish a marketing and public awareness campaign to promote the benefits and use of technology for persons with disabilities.
- Facilitate the development and expansion of technology access centers.
- Develop coordinated training activities for consumers, their families, professionals, employers, and the general public concerning technology-related services.
- Create a statewide system for equipment exchange of used assistive devices.
- Improve interagency cooperation in the development of consumer-responsive policies and procedures regarding technology services.
- Establish a network of community-based technology specialists for consumers and their families.
- Develop, implement, and evaluate a User-to-User network involving consumers providing information and support to one another.

The success of the ARTAP process reflects very strong commitments by consumers and professionals in Arkansas to break down the barriers to technology access, and to enhance the lives and opportunities of persons of all ages with disabilities through the appropriate use of technology. Funding is sought under P.L. 100-407, the Technology-Related Assistance for Disabilities Act of 1988, to help facilitate these efforts. The processes used to develop the unique cooperative relationships in Arkansas which underpin the ARTAP proposal can serve as models for other states striving to solve technology access problems.

Name of Program:	**Colorado Assistive Technology Project: Developing Colorado's Consumer Responsive System**
Address:	Rocky Mountain Resource and Training Institute 3805 Marshall Street, Suite 202 Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
Telephone:	303-420-2942
Contact Person:	Donald St. Louis

Abstract

The Rocky Mountain Resource and Training Institute, on behalf of Governor Roy Romer, persons with disabilities, and all human service agencies that serve youth and adults with disabilities in the State of Colorado, is submitting this proposal to provide statewide technology-related assistance to individuals with disabilities. The purpose of the proposal is to enable persons with disabilities through access to and utilization of modern technology, to have greater control over their lives, to enhance their participation in education, employment, family, and community activities, and to otherwise benefit from opportunities that are commonly available to individuals that do not have disabilities.

This proposal focuses on developing expertise, training, and access to assistive technology at the local level through statewide support and networking. Implementation of the system will make use of local resources and expertise to create assistive technology teams which incorporate extensive involvement from consumers and the public and private sectors. Consumer identified needs will be met by creating options for assistive technology devices and services and by providing access to those options. Public and private sector systems' barriers will be identified and resolved in order to support assistive technology for persons of all ages and disabilities.

This proposed project will create a network of assistive technology teams throughout the state. Each team will be staffed by consumers, personnel from local human service agencies, and representatives from the public sector. Each team will be the focal point for the delivery of trans-environmental access to assistive technology in that community. This proposed project will establish a centralized Assistive Technology Resource Center with a coordinated "Network of Excellence" from participating providers around the state. The proposed project will provide statewide access to information referral, public awareness, training, technical assistance, electronic and other networking, and coordination for dissemination and utilization. Coordination and collaboration among state agencies, ongoing assessment and evaluation of needs, and program evaluation will be provided on a statewide basis. Finally, the project will develop alternative financing strategies to subsidize the provision of technology-related assistance.

The State of Colorado has a strong history of cooperation, collaboration, and systems change, and has created the environment necessary for the successful implementation and attainment of the objectives of the proposal. These factors, combined with the strong commitment to consumer involvement and responsiveness, will insure maximum access to assistive technology for all citizens of Colorado. Not only will the lives of persons with disabilities be enhanced, but lives of all citizens of Colorado will be enriched through opportunities to interact with persons with disabilities in natural living, working, and learning environments.

Name of Program:	**Illinois Technology-Related Assistance Project for Individuals of All Ages with Disabilities**
Address:	Department of Rehabilitiation Services Division of Planning & Special Initiatives 623 E. Adams St., P.O. Box 19429 Springfield, IL 62794-9429
Telephone:	217-785-7091
Contact Person:	Lawrence Rau

Abstract

The Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services, together with the Illinois State Board of Education and other state and private agencies and organizations, proposes a project to develop a comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance for all persons with disabilities regardless of age.

Through the project's consumer survey as well as its extensive involvement of public and private stakeholders, it is apparent that while there are a great many technology-related resources available throughout Illinois, available funding is inadequate, too restrictive, or not understood, and available resources are poorly coordinated and/or not known by those who need them.

This project therefore intends to build on the extensive resources already available and to maximize the use of available funds by coordinating the efforts of the public and private sectors, by improving the linkages and cooperation among all stakeholders, and by systematically and judiciously expanding these resources as necessary to create a more comprehensive, accessible system of technology-related information and service delivery for persons of all ages with all types of disabilities.

Specific project activities to be pursued over the 3-year life of the project include the following which are to be developed and implemented in stages:

- An intensive search and listing of all types of available technology-related resources in Illinois for persons with disabilities to include service delivery, funding sources, information and referral, design, manufacturing, films, publications, etc.
- Establishment of a central, toll-free information and referral service and a database that is linked to a network of existing databases.
- Development of a comprehensive training program, from public awareness through highly technical applications, targeted to individuals with disabilities and their parents, professionals involved in technology-related assistance, other persons who provide assistance to consumers, and the public.
- Conduct of a study on public and insurance funding resources, making recommendations on more cost efficient use of available dollars including potential changes of practice, policies, regulations, and/or statutes by involved state agencies and insurers.

- Pursuit of private and other funding resources such as a tax check off.
- Implementation of a statewide service delivery system on a regional basis, designed to fill identified service gaps, and which may include but not be limited to the following: equipment "trial" locations; equipment loan programs; mobile vans; and a team approach to service delivery.
- Development of statewide programs which could include but not be limited to equipment exchange programs, low interest loan programs for equipment purchase, consumer idea exchanges, a newsletter, etc.

With DORS as the fiscal and programmatic agent to the U.S. Department of Education, project administration will be vested in a private consumer-directed, not-for-profit entity, to be developed during the first project year.

Name of Program:	**The Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network**
Address:	Kentucky Department for the Blind 427 Versailles Road Frankfort, KY 40601
Telephone:	502-564-4754
Contact Person:	Charles McDowell

Abstract

This program will develop and implement a system for making assistive technologies available to all citizens of Kentucky who can benefit from their use. The system to be developed will be known as the Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network. Activities conducted under the auspices of the KATS Network will be consistent with the purposes and intent of The Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988(PL 100-407).

During the initial 3 years of the project, a series of centers will be developed within the KATS Network. A KATS Information Center will be developed in each of Kentucky's 120 counties. These centers will provide information about assistive technology services that are available throughout the network. Two regional centers will serve the eastern and western portion of the state. The KATS Eastern and Western Regional Centers will coordinate assistive technology assessment activities, provide training and technical assistance, and loan assistive and adaptive devices to consumers within those regions. The KATS Research and Development Center will develop training materials; conduct research on assistive technologies; provide fabrication, maintenance, and repair services; and perform evaluation activities. Existing agencies that currently provide assistive technology services will be encouraged to affiliate with the KATS Network. All activities will be coordinated by the KATS Coordinating Center, which will be operated under the auspices of the Kentucky Department for the Blind, which has been designated by the Governor as the Lead Agency to manage activities associated with the implementation of P.L. 100-407.

The Project will pursue the attainment of 15 objectives related to the following topics:

- Development of the KATS Network.
- Conducting a needs assessment survey.
- Identification of assistive technology service providers.
- Providing assessment services.
- Identification of existing assistive technologies that are available.
- Identification of assistive technology funding sources.
- Fabrication, maintenance, and repair services.
- Loan of assistive technologies.
- Assistive technology training and technical assistance.

- Establishing public and private sector partnerships.
- Developing quality assurance standards.
- Conducting research and development activities.
- Generating continuing support for KATS Network activities.
- Disseminating information.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the KATS Network.

The objectives and activities for the KATS Network were reviewed in a public hearing and endorsed by people with disabilities, their families, their advocates, and by professionals involved in providing assistive technology services. Continued involvement of people with disabilities in the implementation of the KATS Network will be ensured through their participation as staff members and participants on all network committees. They will also hold the majority membership on the KATS Network Advisory Board, which will establish policy for activities conducted under the auspices of the project.

Name of Program:	**Maine Consumer Information and Technology Training Exchange (Maine CITTE)**
Address:	Maine Department of Educational & Cultural Services Division of Special Education State House Station #23 Augusta, ME 04333
Telephone:	207-289-5950
Contact Person:	David Noble Stockford

Abstract

The Commissioner of the Maine Department of Educational and Cultural Services proposes the Maine Consumer Information and Technology Training Exchange (Maine CITTE), a centralized, statewide source of information, peer support, and training in assistive technology devices and services for citizens of Maine with disabilities and their families, as well as for employers, service providers, other professionals, and the general public.

This project is based on the assumption that the provision of information will vastly increase the procurement and utilization of assistive technology. This consumer-responsive project will not provide technology-related devices and services directly; it will provide the information, peer support, and training essential for people with disabilities to obtain and maintain devices and services through existing resources.

Maine CITTE complements and advances several newly enacted statewide, consumer-led initiatives: a $5 million revolving Maine Adaptive Equipment Loan Fund, a central disabilities information network, an expanded Medicaid system, and new state housing construction and home modification programs.

Maine CITTE will serve as Maine's only single source of information on technology and will be a consumer-oriented service reflecting the ever-changing face of the technology marketplace. Alpha One (Adaptive Living Programs for Handicapped Americans), a nationally recognized center for independent living, will spearhead the project's technology information and peer support network.

In addition to fostering a general awareness of the availability and benefits of technology for people with disabilities, Maine CITTE will train and bring together consumers, families, employers, service providers, and other professionals in the use of technology.

To overcome geographic boundaries and reach rural and other underserved areas of the state, Maine CITTE, in collaboration with consumer groups, will use the University of Maine System's Interactive Television System for consumer forums and training. This innovative network, which already connects the far corners of Maine, will soon link 250 communities statewide.

Maine CITTE will also unite consumers, employers, service providers, and third-party payors to assess how Maine's policies, practices, and procedures impact Maine's citizens with disabilities.

Name of Program:	**State of Maryland – State Technology-Related Assistance Program**
Address:	Governor's Office for Handicapped Individuals 300 W. Lexington Street 1 Market Center, Box 10 Baltimore, MD 21201
Telephone:	301-333-3098
Contact Person:	Gertrude Jeffers

Abstract

The goal of the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988 is to establish a statewide, consumer responsive system for the delivery of technology-related assistance to individuals with disabilities. The Governor's Office for Handicapped Individuals has been designated by Governor William Donald Schaefer to lead Maryland's effort to submit a proposal to the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. A task force consisting of representatives from state agencies, consumers, and technology providers worked to prepare Maryland's proposal.

The State of Maryland proposes to create, develop, implement, and support a coordinated, consumer responsive, comprehensive statewide system for the delivery of technology-related assistance to enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. Consumer involvement will be assured by the formation of a management committee which will develop policies for the program as well as oversee policy implementation. This committee will be composed of consumers and/or their families who will constitute at least 51% of the membership, as well as private and state agency representatives. The director of the Governor's Office for Handicapped Individuals will chair this committee. Members will be selected by Governor William Donald Schaefer.

Access to technology-related assistance will be enhanced by the establishment of a clearinghouse consisting of an 800 phone line and an aggressive public awareness campaign. The availability of technological services and devices will be increased through the establishment of lending libraries, a demonstration center, and partnerships with the private sector and regional technology specialists. The program will provide training to individuals with disabilities and their family members to ensure effective use of technology. Existing state and private resources will be used and coordinated to the greatest extent possible. Existing financial resources will be coordinated to maximize available funding of technology. Lastly, the program will evaluate the effectiveness of technology in meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Maryland is well positioned to implement these goals through the leadership of Governor William Donald Schaefer, state government agencies including DVR's Technology Resource Office, partnerships like the Johns Hopkins University and the Maryland State Department of Education's Center for Technology and Human Medical Engineering, The Kennedy Institute for Handicapped Children, The University of Maryland Department of Special

Education, and the Baltimore County Economic Development Rehabilitation Alliance, among others. These programs offer many technology-related services yet our efforts are uncoordinated and many gaps in service remain.

The Governor's Office for Handicapped Individuals will serve as the administering agency for a small staff including a project director, technology specialists, and support staff which will facilitate the delivery of technology services to all Marylanders with disabilities regardless of age. The project will call upon multidisciplinary teams of professionals who will be retained by contract to conduct individual assessment and training. Additionally, training will be conducted for service delivery agencies which come into contact with individuals with disabilities to increase awareness of technology applications. A small pool of funds will be available for purchase and acquisition of technology devices.

Name of Program: A System of Technology to Receive Results

Address: State of Minnesota
State Council on Disability
Metro Square Building, Suite 145
7th Place and Jackson Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Telephone: 612-297-1554

Contact Person: Rachel Wobschall

Abstract

The Minnesota Governor's Advisory Council on Technology for People with Disabilities has developed this consumer-responsive proposal to meet the diverse needs for Minnesotans with disabilities. This proposal features:

Public Education

- Sponsor an annual conference for individuals, families, and professionals.
- Fund an interstate information and referral service to assist people in locating resources in the close geographic proximity to their home.
- Produce public education brochures that cut across all areas of disability and technology.
- Sponsor intensive training designed to develop local expertise and capacity.

Public Policy

- Complete an analytical profile of state agency policies for the purpose of developing legislation that will integrate technology in all delivery systems that serve individuals with disabilities.
- Complete a funding analysis to analyze barriers to the provision and payment of assistive technology devices and services.
- Sponsor an internship program to develop expertise in public policy graduate students about technology and people with disabilities.
- Implement all grant activities in this proposal to impact long-term policy change.

Funding

- Employ a Medicaid Specialist to train individuals, families, and professionals on "how to" access Medicaid funds for technology devices and services.
- Create a Consumer Task Force on Insurance to propose changes in third party payor coverage of assistive technology devices and service.
- Train educators about Medicaid in order to access funds to ensure individuals receive assistive technology in the least restrictive environment.

Involvement of Individuals and Families

- Sponsor a scholarship program for individuals and families to attend technology conferences.
- Identify, recruit, train, and employ individuals with disabilities to evaluate and monitor current state activities as well as develop proposals for new technology programs.
- Conduct annual needs assessment surveys and public forums to gather input from individuals and their families.

Delivery

- Continue to pursue state funding for a loan program to pay for assistive technology for individuals and their families.
- Expand mobile van service to provide for the assessment, fabrication, adaptation, modification, and training on assistive technology devices throughout the state.
- Develop a grassroots network of peer counselors in all 87 counties.
- Fund community-based organizations that provide technology-related assistance to individuals who are currently underserved.

Coordination

- Continue representation from public/private sectors on the Governor's Advisory Council.
- Solicit private sector commitments of cash contributions, equipment, and donated services. If this proposal is funded, $50,000 of private match has been pledged.
- Sponsor an Annual Research and Development Forum to highlight new technologies for individuals, families, and professionals.
- Continue the Governor's Awards to recognize Minnesotans who have developed assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities.
- Begin a partnership with the Multiple Sclerosis Society to provide technology-related assistance to individuals who are currently underserved.
- Seek major contributions from the private sector.
- Develop a partnership with Medtronic Foundation to develop programs to reach senior citizens who have disabilities.

Lifespan

- Work with the State Transition Interagency Committee to develop policies to ensure the continuation of technology-related assistance from school to adulthood.
- Work with area aging networks and early childhood intervention coordinators to ensure that training and information is available at both ends of the spectrum of transition.
- Minnesota firmly believes that if funded, this ambitious agenda will assist thousands of people with disabilities to have a better quality of life.

Name of Program:	**Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities in Nebraska**
Address:	Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services P.O. Box 94987 Lincoln, NE 68509
Telephone:	402-471-3645
Contact Person:	Jason D. Andrew, Ph.D.

Abstract

Nebraska: Sometime in the 21st Century—

Our citizens with mental and physical impairments enjoy a life that is well integrated into the mainstream of our communities. They have full access to employment, education, and recreational opportunities. The stigma associated with these disabilities has virtually disappeared, and these people are able to reach their full potential with minimal restrictions on their liberties. Their needs for basic and specialized services are met by a responsive system of quality human services.

A State for All Ages
New Horizons for Nebraska

This statement from the Nebraska Legislature's strategic plan is our vision of our citizens with disabilities.

The long-term strategies developed by the Nebraska Legislature to realize this vision emphasize the importance of technological innovation and change as driving forces of Nebraska's future. This will impact on all aspects of life in Nebraska: economic, educational, and social. Of particular interest to the legislature is the role of technological innovation and change in ...transforming social welfare systems into social adjustment systems...as an important element in enhancing human dignity and economic competitiveness.

Nebraska's application for a Technology-Related Assistance State Program grant is intended to move these visions of the future into reality for persons with disabilities.

Nebraska's grant application reflects the consensus that we achieved during the application development process among persons with disabilities, service providers, and public and private program managers. The seven parts of our application describe in detail Nebraska's need for a comprehensive, consumer-responsive program of technology-related assistance, the desired operating characteristics of our program, the goals and objectives to be achieved to establish the desired program, and the functions and activities of project staff, persons with disabilities, and Nebraska's public and private agencies in relation to these goals and objectives. Each part is summarized here.

A. *Needs Assessment* shows that an estimated 1200 children and youth and 19,000 adults with disabilities need technology-related assistance, but only about 40-45% of the children and 10-15% of the adults currently receive this assistance. Only a small proportion (6%) of Nebraska's agencies serving persons with disabilities provide technology-related assistance, and this is not expected to increase in the next 3 to 5 years. At the same time, persons with disabilities, service providers, and program managers agree that these existing efforts provide a solid foundation of strength and a broad base from which we can build a comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance that would possess these desired operating characteristics.

- **Clear Responsibilities** – The assistive technology responsibilities of agencies involved in technology assistance are clearly identified and communicated.
- **Access to Adequate Evaluation** – The person with disabilities has access to evaluation by persons knowledgeable about the types and uses of assistive technology devices and services. This includes multidisciplinary team evaluation (increasing chances that appropriate technology will be indentified) when appropriate.
- **Adequate Information for and Involvement in Decision-making by Persons with Disabilities** – The person with disabilities has access to information on available devices prior to making a decision, including qualitative and evaluative information and tryout opportunities, and is fully involved in decisions about assistive technology devices and services.
- **Availability of Specialized Consultation** – Specialized consultation is available to deal with complex problems and situations.
- **Consistent Funding Source Criteria and Requirements** – Funding sources focus on consumer defined functional and quality of life criteria, and minimize professional judgments. Funding requirements permit and facilitate use of multiple funding sources.
- **Adequate Funding Sources** – Adequate funding is available and readily accessible to provide devices, necessary adaptations and modifications, training in their use, maintenance, repair, and replacement for all those in need.
- **Focus on Services as Well as Goods** – Access to all necessary assistive technology services (including evaluation, customizing, training, and maintenance) and access to supplementary goods needed to make a device fully usable by the person are provided
- **Continuing Access to Services** – The person with disabilities remains "in the system" and gets changing needs met, as well as continuing needs for maintenance, repair, and upkeep.

B. *Goals and Objectives* sets out the five goals to be met to establish a responsive statewide program of technology-related assistance in Nebraska.

- **Information and referral** – The project will build on the existing computerized information and referral capacities of the Nebraska Hotline for the Handicapped and establish an information and referral service providing detailed information on assistive technology devices and services necessary to make informed decisions. This will include computer capacities to accurately match persons with disabilities to devices, services, and consumer support groups.
- **Model Systems** – The project will establish regional centers for customizing, maintaining, and repairing assistive devices to meet the critical need for the services in the state.

A funding coordination service to assist persons with disabilities to access funds for the purchase of assistive technology devices and services will be established. This service will also provide payment for devices and services for those persons who "slip through the cracks" in the current system.

The project will innovate the use of interactive fiber optic communication to provide distance evaluation and specialized consultation. This objective will make use of unique available capacities that result for Nebraska's economic development emphasis in telecommunications, and will provide a means for persons in rural areas to access specialized technology expertise.

- **Consumer support**—The project will establish a consumer technology support network, including peer assistance. This will provide persons with disabilities with access to the consumer information that typically flows through informal communication networks on consumer goods and services. Support materials for this network will be developed and distributed.
- **Special studies**—The project will conduct special studies on the financial capacities of persons with disabilities to pay for assistive technology, and on the federal, state, and local policies that facilitate or hinder the provision of technology-related assistance. Study findings will be used to identify viable alternative sources of funding, and "best practices" for the delivery of technology-related assistance.
- **Training, technical assistance, and public awareness**—The project will innovate the use of interactive fiber optic telecommunication to provide training in sparsely populated rural areas. The project will capitalize on the unique opportunity created by the 1989 Nebraska Legislature, requiring all teachers and school administrators to have coursework in special education. An instructional unit on the classroom use of assistive technology will be developed and distributed to be used in preservice and inservice training conducted to meet this requirement.

  A technical assistance service on the use, maintenance, and repair of assistive technology will be established for persons with disabilities.

C. *Plan of Activities* describes work to be done by the project, and its detailed Schedule of Accomplishments. It is expected to take 5 years to fully complete establishment of Nebraska's statewide consumer responsive program of technology-related assistance. Each year's work will be organized around a major theme, as follows:

Year 1	Developing the Capacity to Meet Needs
Year 2	Implementing the Assistive Technology System
Year 3	Evaluate and Refine the Assistive Technology System
Year 4	Stabilize the Operation of the Delivery System
Year 5	Stabilize the Funding of the Delivery System

D. *Evaluation Plan* describes the approach we will take to evaluate our progress toward accomplishing our goals and objectives. We will focus on three dimensions:

- Impact on the quality of life of persons with disabilities.
- Impact on availability of and funding for assistive technology devices and services.

- Impact on achieving a comprehensive, consumer responsive, statewide program of technology-related assistance.

We will innovate a program evaluation approach that emphasizes ongoing, real-time evaluation, making maximum use of data obtained directly from consumers on assistive technology devices, services, and the impact these have on their lives.

E. *Management Plan* describes our approach to project staffing and management. Nebraska's State Technology-Related Assistance grant will be managed by the Nebraska Department of Education. This will capitalize on the expertise that exists within the department in the area of technology-related assistance. It will also capitalize on the fact that the department has an established track record of success with statewide grants from the U.S. Department of Education, and already has in place effective and efficient grant management and internal monitoring policies and procedures.

F. *Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities* describes the substantive role played by persons with disabilities and their families and representatives in developing the project application, and its goals and objectives. The project will use a four-pronged approach to ensure that persons with disabilities and their families and representatives continue to be substantively involved in implementation and program evaluation. The project will move beyond advisory committees to direct involvement of persons with disabilities in our service delivery and program evaluation activities.

G. *Agency Coordination* describes the role that Nebraska's public and private agencies and organizations played in application development, and their future roles in project implementation and evaluation. Nebraska's agencies have a long history of using successful and innovative methods of coordinating services to leverage scarce public resources. Cooperation and coordination is enhanced by small agency sizes and the absence of large bureaucratic structures.

Technology-Related Assistance State Program grant funds will enable us to carry out our plans and achieve our goals and objectives. The result will be to turn a vision for the 21st century into a 20th-century reality for persons with disabilities in Nebraska.

Name of Program:	**Utah State Program for Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities**
Address:	Utah State University Developmental Center for Handicapped Persons Logan, UT 84322-6800
Telephone:	801-750-1982
Contact Person:	Marvin Fifield

Abstract

This application requests federal assistance to implement a consumer-responsive statewide program of technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities in the state of Utah. The proposed program is designed to provide expertise, resources, and a structure which will enhance and expand assistive technology services provided by private and public agencies through agency coordination, information dissemination, training, removal of barriers, and the development of additional funding.

The Developmental Center for Handicapped Persons (DCHP) was designated lead agency to minimize agency turf issues, agency loyalty, and to facilitate full consumer participation in the determination of need, identification of program goals, objectives and activities, and program governance and evaluation. Because the DCHP is an independent research, training, and development center at Utah State University, the fiscal and contractual procedures are currently in place to meet the assurances described in the application. Programmatically, the Center is governed by a board and a committee of the Utah Governor's Council for People with Disabilities. This provides flexibility and focus which can minimize bureaucratic structure.

It is the basic philosophy of the Utah program that the consumer is an equal partner in all points of the technology-related assistance program: (a) determining need, (b) selection of a solution or an option, (c) purchase or acquisition, (d) adaptation or modification, (e) training in use, (f) maintenance, and (g) evaluation of the device or the service provided. The focus of the problem is not the disability, limitation, or impairment, but the dependency, lack of adequate support, and barriers faced by the individual with a disability. Thus, the solution should be a shared responsibility between a specialist through information and advice and the consumer in assuming control over their lives.

The proposed program is referenced to the needs of consumers, not the structure of the service delivery system or the availability of assistive technology. Assistive technology devices, to be effective, depend on nontechnology services such as training, maintenance, environmental modification, and follow-up evaluation. The consumer, as an individual, is constantly changing; living environments change and dynamic changes occur in technology. To have relevance and value, the service system must also change. However, rather than replacing the existing service system, the Utah program proposes changes within the system through coordination, shared resources and responsibility, and the elimination of barriers which impede consumers from obtaining assistive technology services in a timely, efficient, and coordinated manner.

The desired outcome of the program is not the acquisition of a device or its utilization, but rather a reduction in restrictiveness and an increase in productivity, independence, and choices for the consumer. The purpose of assistive technology should be to increase the options of daily living.

This application describes the development of this philosophy, the objectives and activities proposed to implement it statewide, and an organization, management, governance, and program evaluation design.